

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Missouri

United States of America

v.

JOSHUA J. JOHNSON,

Defendant)
)
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)
)

Case No. 4:25 CR 63 HEA/SRW-1

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

Upon the

- ☒ Motion of the Government attorney pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or
☐ Motion of the Government or Court's own motion pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2),

the Court held a detention hearing and found that detention is warranted. This order sets forth the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), in addition to any other findings made at the hearing.

Part II - Findings of Fact and Law as to Presumptions under § 3142(e)

- ☐ **A. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2)** (*previous violator*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because the following conditions have been met:
- ☐ **(1)** the defendant is charged with one of the following crimes described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1):
 - ☐ **(a)** a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**
 - ☐ **(b)** an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**
 - ☐ **(c)** an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508); **or**
 - ☐ **(d)** any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**
 - ☐ **(e)** any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves:
 - (i)** a minor victim; **(ii)** the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921);
 - (iii)** any other dangerous weapon; or **(iv)** a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250; **and**
 - ☐ **(2)** the defendant has previously been convicted of a Federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed; **and**
 - ☐ **(3)** the offense described in paragraph (2) above for which the defendant has been convicted was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a Federal, State, or local offense; **and**
 - ☐ **(4)** a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for the offense described in paragraph (2) above, whichever is later.

- ☐ **B. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3)** (*narcotics, firearm, other offenses*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:
- ☐ (1) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508);
 - ☐ (2) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;
 - ☐ (3) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed;
 - ☐ (4) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18, U.S.C. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581-1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; **or**
 - ☐ (5) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

☐ **C. Conclusions Regarding Applicability of Any Presumption Established Above**

- ☐ The defendant has not introduced sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption above, and detention is ordered on that basis. (*Part III need not be completed.*)

OR

- ☐ The defendant has presented evidence sufficient to rebut the presumption, but after considering the presumption and the other factors discussed below, detention is warranted.

Part III - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention

After considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) and the information presented at the detention hearing, the Court concludes that the defendant must be detained pending trial because the Government has proven:

- ☒ By clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community.
- ☒ By a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required.

In addition to any findings made on the record at the hearing, the reasons for detention include the following:

- ☐ Weight of evidence against the defendant is strong
- ☐ Subject to lengthy period of incarceration if convicted
- ☒ Prior criminal history
- ☐ Participation in criminal activity while on probation, parole, or supervision
- ☐ History of violence or use of weapons
- ☒ History of alcohol or substance abuse
- ☒ Lack of stable employment
- ☐ Lack of stable residence
- ☐ Lack of financially responsible sureties

- ☐ Lack of significant community or family ties to this district
- ☐ Significant family or other ties outside the United States
- ☐ Lack of legal status in the United States
- ☐ Subject to removal or deportation after serving any period of incarceration
- ☒ Prior failure to appear in court as ordered
- ☐ Prior attempt(s) to evade law enforcement
- ☐ Use of alias(es) or false documents
- ☐ Background information unknown or unverified
- ☐ Prior violations of probation, parole, or supervised release

OTHER REASONS OR FURTHER EXPLANATION:

At the detention hearing on February 28, 2025, the parties proceeded by proffer and argument. The Court thereafter took the matter under submission. Notably, on the same date, Pretrial Services had filed its Bail Report recommending detention. Defendant, through counsel, claimed that the Bail Report inaccurately states that, at the time of his arrest herein, he was found in possession of a large quantity of cash when in reality it was fake currency used for social media content. Otherwise, neither party lodged or filed any objection, supplement, or response to the report, which this Court adopts and incorporates the facts contained therein by reference. As such, the Court properly deems the matter wholly submitted.

For its part, the government requested, both orally and by written motions, [ECF Nos. 5, 13] a detention hearing and that Defendant should remain detained, arguing that Defendant is a serious risk of flight, nonappearance, and danger to the community. Specifically, the government cited Defendant's history of selling fentanyl and his suspected involvement in the fentanyl overdose deaths of three victims. The government also referenced Defendant's arrest in the instant matter, where he was found in possession of 12 fentanyl capsules, multiple unused syringes, and thousands of dollars in fake currency. Additionally, the government pointed to Defendant's criminal history, drug use, and status as a registered sex offender who is not living at an approved residence.

For his part, Defendant, through counsel, argued that the government is not entitled to a detention hearing as there is a lack of evidence that "there is a serious risk that [D]efendant will flee" under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(6). As such, Defendant stated that he should be released. To be sure, he initially emphasized his community ties. He clarified his residency with his parents and maintained that all his family reside near him in the Wentzville area of the District. He also essentially acknowledged his criminal history but stressed that most of his past difficulties related to his substance abuse. In this context, Defendant asserted that conditions of release related to substance abuse, such as counseling and treatment, would reasonably assure his appearance as required.

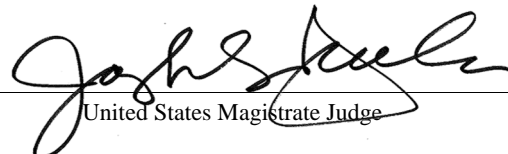
Nevertheless, based on the record, the Court concludes that, if released, there is a serious risk that Defendant will flee, and there is no condition, or combination of conditions, that would reasonably assure Defendant's appearance and the safety of any other person and the community. Indeed, Defendant is a registered sex offender. He also purportedly admitted to dealing drugs. He is a suspect in multiple overdose deaths. More to it, he has his own serious drug addiction. Additionally, there were some discrepancies regarding his current address, and it appears that he was not living at the registry's approved and designated residence at the time of his arrest. He has a history of failing to appear for court and noncompliance while under supervision. Undoubtedly, Defendant's actions, history, and characteristics have shown that he is not a good candidate for release.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, the Court GRANTS the Government's Motions for Pretrial Detention. [ECF Nos. 5, 13]

Part IV - Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Attorney General or to the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant must be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility must deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

Date: 03/03/2025


United States Magistrate Judge